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U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

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BRIAN GARRETT, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

October 3, 2024

The Honorable Carlos Del Toro
Secretary of the Navy
U.S. Department of Defense
1200 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350

Dear Secretary Del Toro,

It is deeply concerning to learn that faulty welds may have been knowingly made to U.S. Navy submarines and aircraft carriers. The safety of our sailors is our top concern, and we must immediately understand any risks associated with the faulty work. The Department of Defense needs to immediately provide our committee with answers and a plan for how both you and Huntington Ingalls Industries-Newport News (HII-NNS) will protect U.S. Navy vessels against knowingly faulty work. Absolute transparency with Congress is essential. These vessels are critical to U.S. defense – we must ensure that these vessels are protected against any bad actors seeking to put U.S. national security or our service members at risk.

While we are aware that the U.S. Department of Justice is investigating, we want to understand the scope of the problem. Therefore, we expect a briefing to be scheduled promptly on this matter and answers to the below questions no later than October 11, 2024.

1. Does the Navy fully understand the extent of all knowingly faulty welds made by workers at HII-NNS on in-service vessels and vessels under construction?
2. Provide an assessment of any knowingly faulty welds made by workers at HII-NNS that pose a threat to sailor safety made on currently in-service vessels.
3. Provide all known impacts to in-service and under construction vessels impacted by knowingly faulty welds made by workers at HII-NNS.
4. Provide a recovery plan for in-service and under construction vessels impacted by knowingly faulty welds made by workers at HII-NNS.
5. Provide rework plans for in-service and under construction vessels impacted by knowingly faulty welds made by workers at HII-NNS.
6. Provide a detailed timeline of when the Navy knew about knowingly faulty welds made by HII-NNS.

Secretary Carlos Del Toro

October 3, 2024

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The Armed Services Committee, under Rule X, clause 1 of the Rules of the House of Representatives (House Rules), maintains oversight jurisdiction over the Department of Defense generally. Moreover, under the House Rules, the Armed Services Committee derives its authority to conduct oversight from, among other things, clause 2(b)(1) of Rule X (relating to general oversight responsibilities), clause 3(b) of Rule X (relating to special oversight functions), and clause 1(b) of rule XI (relating to investigations and studies).

If you have any questions about this request, your staff may contact Armed Services Committee staff at (202) 225-1151. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mike Rogers
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee



Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee



Trent Kelly
Chairman
Subcommittee on Seapower and
Projections Forces



Joe Courtney
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Seapower and
Projections Forces